

# QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 69

## LAUNCESTON TATLERS COLLECTION

**Authors, Northern Tasmania  
Women, Northern Tasmania**

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## INTRODUCTION

Launceston Tatlers was founded in 1962 by Pip Horner (previously a member of the Adelaide Tatlers' Club) with the aim of bringing together a group of women who were interested in writing and to further explore that interest.

Meetings are held each month, except January, at members' homes. From its inception Launceston Tatlers elected office bearers, kept minutes and organised venues and activities, maintaining a structured procedure according to a six-month program. Two social functions, in July and December, were held each year.

The oral presentation of papers written to a specific topic by members was the principal activity of a Tatlers meeting, with a book reviewed over the summer discussed at the February meeting. The minutes contain a precis of every paper presented. Papers presented at meetings were placed in the archives, and once a year voted on for permanent retention, a system abandoned in the 1980s when every paper was archived.

Membership has fluctuated during Tatlers' history. The first constitution set a membership limit of 20 and throughout the 1960s there was an extensive waiting list. There were references to the need for a membership drive during the 1970s and at the end of the 1980s; after that time numbers remained constant between 10 and a dozen.

Although Tatlers published some papers in simple hand made booklets in 1966 and 1967, then more ambitiously in 1985, the group's major publication is the substantial and impressively produced *An inspired pursuit: forty years of writing by women of Northern Tasmania*, Canberra, Karuda Press, 2002. The book contains over 80 pieces of writing, prose and poetry, fiction and non-fiction, on diverse subjects, taken from the group's archives. It is a small sample of some 600 papers archived since 1962. The book also includes a comprehensive history of the Tatlers.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in March 2003. Further material covering the period 2003-2007 was donated in August 2012.

### ***1. Legal Records***

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|-----|---|------|
| 1/1 | Rules and regulations of the Tatlers' Club  | nd   |
| 1/2 | Launceston Tatlers, revised rules and regulations, August 2000 (includes 'On rules & regulations report review', by Eve Holmes, nd) | 2000 |

### ***2. Minutes of Meetings***

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|------|--|-----------|
| 2/1  | Launceston Tatlers, minutes of meetings, 3 April 1962-5 December 1967 (includes notes on the Adelaide Tatlers' Club) | 1962-1967 |
| 2/2  | Minutes of meetings, 13 February 1968-3 December 1974  | 1968-1974 |
| 2/3  | Minutes of meetings, 11 February 1975-12 September 1979  | 1975-1979 |
| 2/4  | Minutes of meetings, 10 October 1979-December 1986   | 1979-1986 |
| 2/5  | Minutes of meetings, 17 February 1987-13 November 1990   | 1987-1990 |
| 2/6  | Minutes of meetings, 12 February 1991-11 April 1995  | 1991-1995 |
| 2/7  | Minutes of meetings, 9 May 1995-10 October 1999  | 1995-1999 |
| 2/8  | Minutes of meetings, 9 November 1999-20 November 2002  | 1999-2002 |
| 2/9  | Minutes of meetings, 11 February 2003-13 November 2007   | 2003-2007 |
| 2/10 | Minutes of committee meetings  | 1962-1973 |

### ***3. Correspondence***

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|-----|--|-----------|
| 3/1 | Correspondence   | 1962-1967 |
| 3/2 | Correspondence   | 1968-1984 |
| 3/3 | Correspondence   | 1985-2002 |
| 3/4 | Correspondence concerning publication and launch of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> | 2002-2003 |
| 3/5 | Correspondence   | 2003-2006 |

#### **4. Manuscripts**

4/1	Launceston Tatlers, original stories/papers, with index	1962-1967
4/2	Original stories/papers	1968-1977
4/3	Original stories/papers	1978-1987
4/4	Original stories/papers	1988-1992
4/5	Original stories/papers	1993-1996
4/6	Original stories/papers	1997-1999
4/7	Original stories/papers	2000-2002
4/8	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2003
4/9	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2004
4/10	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2005
4/11	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2006
4/12	Original stories/papers parts 1&2 (two copies: one original, one peer-reviewed & proof-read)	2007

#### **5. Publications**

5/1	<i>Tatlers</i>	[1966]
5/2	<i>Tatlers</i>	[1967]
5/3	<i>Tatlers together: a friendly anthology</i>	1985
5/4	Launceston Tatlers, <i>An inspired pursuit: forty years of writing by women of Northern Tasmania</i> , Canberra, Karuda Press, 2002 (see also 3/4)	2002
5/5	Original manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 1, first draft	2002
5/6	Original manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 2, first draft	2002

5/7	Edited copy of manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 1	2002
5/8	Edited copy of manuscript of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , part 2	2002
5/9	Material relating to publication of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> , from commencement of process to launch of book (includes 2 cassettes and two compact discs - one being a group portrait of members, the other being contents of the book)	2002
5/10	Working documents for preparation of the second book "An Inspired Pursuit" Volume II	nd

### **6. Programs/Topics**

6/1	Programs	1964-2003
6/2	Programs	2003-2007
6/3	Story topics	1962-1986

### **7. Membership Lists**

7/1	Incomplete membership lists, original membership joining forms	1971-1998
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### **8. Photographs**

8/1	Photographs of members	1984-2002
8/2	Members at 2002 (this photograph appears on the back cover of <i>An inspired pursuit</i> ) <b>Oversize item</b>	2002

### **9. Miscellaneous Records**

9/1	Record of Tatler archiving procedures	1962-1989
9/2	Annual luncheon menus, incomplete set	1964-1985
9/3	Reviews of books read over summer	1983-1999, nd
9/4	Writing techniques and criticism	1970-1985, nd
9/5	Extra activities presented at meetings	1993-1995

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 9/6 | 'The whistling kettle', a collaborative writing exercise, unfinished? | 1965      |
| 9/7 | Activities and writings from lunches etc                              | 1966-1991 |
| 9/8 | Sundry activities   | nd        |

***10. Miscellaneous Items***

- |      |   |                  |
|------|---|------------------|
| 10/1 | Helen Roberts-Thomson papers (written for Tatlers, writing classes and her own stories) | 1967-1983,<br>nd |
|------|---|------------------|

**OTHER SOURCES**

QVMAG, Community History, 2003.OH.14